

# Fossil Fool Bulletin

Fossil fools in the spotlight this week: A resource for people working to end the fossil fuel era in Australia

Published by Eve Sinton • fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com

FFB 1:16 • 20 MARCH 2018

## Farmers to be affected by Santos Narrabri CSG project tour Queensland gasfields

*Fearing the approval of Santos' Narrabri Gas project in North West NSW, a group of farmers and community members have conducted a tour of South West Queensland for a first-hand view of the towns and communities affected by coal seam gas, as well as some of gas infrastructure in the Darling Downs.*

The tour was organised by the Wando Conservation and Cultural Centre, Narrabri, and included meetings with locals in Chinchilla, Miles, Reedy Creek and Roma.

Beef farmer from Quirindi, Peter Wills, said the trip confirmed many of the farmers' existing concerns about toxic pollution from the CSG industry, which has so far been prevented from spreading to NSW.

"We have concluded that agriculture and coal seam gas cannot safely co-exist" said Mr Wills. "Farming is clearly in decline in CSG areas."

Risk to the Great Artesian Basin is top of a long list of concerns for the visitors, with biosecurity and toxic waste disposal close behind.

### Concealed waste dumping

"Near the Santos Fairview coal seam gasfields yesterday, we witnessed a tanker spreading an obnoxious smelling liquid onto the bitumen road," he said. "It's clear that this was not being done for dust suppression, and from the odour we can only conclude it is a form of concealed waste dumping."

"The highlights of the tour were the many connections we made with



**WCCC tour group at a gas pipeline construction corridor on the Darling Downs, Qld.**

*Photos: Northwest Protection Advocacy/Wando Conservation and Cultural Centre*

Queensland farmers who described the inequitable power balance between the CSG industry and agriculture," said Mr Wills, who was joined by Ms Debbie Nulty on the tour. Ms Nulty is a veterinary nurse, beef and sheep farmer from Kingston, South Australia.

### Biosecurity risks shifted onto farmers

Ms Nulty condemns the current industry practice whereby biosecurity risks are shifted onto farmers who are required to sign the Livestock Production Assurance National Vendor Declaration for export.

"The onshore gas industry is placing agriculture in serious jeopardy," says



Ms Nulty, whose community is struggling to protect farming, including a valuable viticulture industry, in the renowned Limestone Coast.

"Beef farmers are expected under the National Vendor Declaration to provide assurances about the safety of their meat even if their land is poten-

• continued P 2

• P 2: Santos writes Qld school science unit

• P 3: Pipelines: toxic infrastructure

• P 5: The week's news on coal & gas

# Agriculture and gas – co-existence is not possible: farmers

• continued from P 1

tially exposed to the risks of onshore gas,” she said. “If a biosecurity risk of the gas industry were to cause a lapse of confidence in our meat safety in one of our valuable export markets, would they be held accountable, and how?”

“We visited someone who is currently receiving an APA gas pipeline at Reedy Creek to Wallumbilla. The price per kilometre offered for easement settlement is considerably more up there, \$65,000 per kilometre,” said one of the group, Simon Fagan, of Leeholme, Coonamble. “In Tottenham, APA is offering only \$15,000 per kilometre, a huge discrepancy in compensation.”

“The gas industry’s claims are pretty false that there is not much impact,” said Tony Smith of Broadwater, Warren. “The impact is as much social as it is environmental. If you look at the town of Tara, it didn’t seem to gain. The destruction of Miles is terrible. Greed got in the way, and now there are all those empty houses. The community is now smaller than when the gasfields first started.”

## Noise disturbing for kilometres around

“The scale of the gasfields is probably 20 times bigger than I imagined,” said Mr Smith. “I didn’t realise a gas compressor station is the size of a city block, not a container. The sheer size of them is staggering, and there are going to be 5 of them on the Narrabri to Moomba pipeline, if not more. The noise will be extremely disturbing to people living for kilometres around a compressor station.”

“If you are close to a gasfield, you can



Injune police pulled over the WCCC tour group twice during their Darling Downs gasfield trip. Photo: NSW GasBan – Facebook

almost guarantee that something is going to happen – the bores are certainly going to drop,” said Mr Smith. “From the examples we saw, the drawdown predictions were all underestimated. The coal seam gas companies are going to damage water, the evidence is clear to see. So to suggest putting in another bore as a solution, industry calls it ‘make good’, that’s all very well in the short term, but what happens in the future? What happens to my children, our inter-generational equity.”

“The confidentiality agreements are wrong. They shouldn’t be able to hide if something goes wrong,” said Mr Fagan. “I don’t think it is right that you’re not allowed to talk about your business, it puts you under added stress.”

“The long-term effect on the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) is very concerning.

CSG has become the biggest GAB water user in Queensland and now draws more water than agriculture, and the CSG industry is hoping to expand. If the GAB is contaminated or destroyed, it cannot be repaired yet it appears both the extractive industry and the government are prepared to push the GAB supply to its limits, or beyond,” said Mr Fagan.

“Of all the concerns about this industry – and there are just so many of them – water comes first, second and third in importance,” said Tony Van Lubeck, of Castlemaine, Warren.

“We are convinced that co-existence between coal seam gas and agriculture is not possible,” said Mr Smith.

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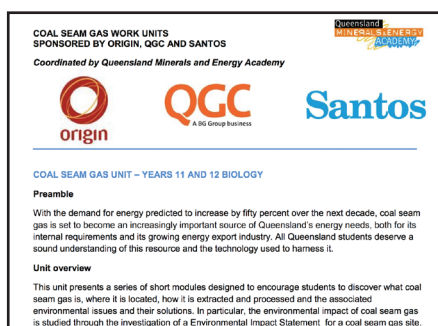
## Santos writes science curriculum, sponsors cops in Queensland

**Coal seam gas companies Santos, QGC and Origin have teamed up to write a science unit for years 11 and 12 biology in Queensland schools.**

This is one of many moves by mining interests to influence government functions.

In 2014, Santos-branded police vehicles were used in a Queensland road safety campaign.

At the time, Lock the Gate spokesman Drew Hutton said, “It’s completely unacceptable. Lock the Gate would



not be able to sponsor a police car – nor should it. Neither should a company.”



Be it sponsoring police or dictating what’s taught in schools, Santos is not one to miss an opportunity.

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# More than a pipeline: it's toxic industrial infrastructure

By Mina Hamilton  
for US-based nopipelies.org

*A little-known aspect of gas pipelines is that they require large compressor stations to help concentrate and move the pressurised gas along.*

As compressor stations release large amounts of methane, plus other toxins, they contribute significantly to global warming. They are noisy, humming 24/7, and are subject to dangerous explosions and fires. During the consultation process, gas pipeline companies often fail to reveal the number, location and size of planned compressor stations.

The large compressor stations, part of every gas pipeline project, can include hectares of industrial plant, plus buffer zones. At these stations, gas is pressurised to move it along high-speed gas pipelines more efficiently. The stations are spaced every 50 to 100 kilometres, though sometimes they are much closer.

Compressor stations are significant contributors to global warming. During ventings known as “blow-downs” large quantities of methane are released to the atmosphere. In the first two decades after methane is released it is 79 to 105 times more powerful than CO<sub>2</sub> at destabilizing the climate.

Compressor stations also leak methane via valves and gaskets that weaken and leak from corrosion and thermal stress. A recent study by Cornell University scientists Bob Howard and Anthony Ingraffea estimates leaks. They found that anywhere from 3.6% to 7.9% of unburned methane leaks out at gas wellheads and along pipeline infrastructure before reaching end users.

## Huge toxin release

Compressor stations release huge amounts of toxins. These toxins include benzene, toluene, sulfuric oxide, and formaldehyde. Citizens within 450 metres of compressor stations in PA, TX, LA and other states have suffered from nose bleeds, rashes, headaches, sore throats, dizziness and nausea.

A typical compressor (from FERC application for the Compressor Station in Reed, PA.) also emits 42 tonnes of nitrous oxide per year. An anaesthetic for dental surgeries, nitrous oxide can cause numbness and mental impair-



*APLNG's Talinga gas plant, Darling Downs, QLD, includes a compressor station.*

*Photo: Eve Sinton*

ment. It has a sickly-sweet smell. Nitrous oxide and volatile organic compounds interact to produce ground level ozone. Ozone inhibits crop growth by up to 30%. Compressor stations emit radon-222. This radioactive gas precipitates out as radioactive polonium and lead. During blow-downs these toxins deposit in surrounding areas.

## **Scientists: 6%-7.9% of unburned methane leaks before reaching end users**

Compressor stations are noisy. “Blow-downs” can last for two hours. The noise is comparable to a commercial jet taking off. Blow-downs are needed if a gas pipeline is taken off-line for maintenance, in the event of emergencies, or to accommodate fluctuating demand. They often occur in the middle of the night.

The sound of regular compressor station operation has been compared to four diesel locomotive engines running 24/7. Residents as far as 1.6km away can hear the racket. This humming can cause hearing impairment, learning disabilities and cardiovascular problems.

## **Dangerous explosions and fires**

Compressor stations are dangerous. Since 2011, there have been explosions and fires at compressor stations

in Lathrop, PA, Brooklyn Township, PA, Montrose, PA, Branchville, NJ, Windsor, NY, Pinedale, WY, Marengo County, AL, Oaktown, IN, Langton, OK, Nine Mile Canyon in UT – among others. Explosions have required midnight evacuations of nearby residents, with people evacuated out to a 1.6km radius.

Compressor stations are fully automated, without staff present. In emergencies local fire departments (often volunteer) must wait for gas pipeline crews to arrive from distant depots hours away.

To mask the full environmental impact of a proposed line, gas pipeline companies sometimes do not include all planned compressors stations in initial Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) applications.

An example of this tactic is the case of the Millennium Pipeline and Compressor Station in Minisink, NY: Millennium put in its FERC application for the pipeline in 2006 and the compressor station application in 2011, five years later. This type of segmentation is illegal, but remains an industry-wide practice.

• *Mina Hamilton writes on environmental issues. Her articles have been published in Mother Jones, the Progressive, the Nation, and In These Times. She has been a Research Associate at Radioactive Waste Management Associates, was Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Sierra Club Radioactive Waste Campaign, and served on Greenpeace USA's Board of Directors.*

Article sourced from: <http://nopipelies.org/>

## 'Wouldn't know his arse from a power point'

*George Christensen, the federal government MP for Mackay and a vocal Adani supporter, posted on Facebook a video of his exchange with anti-Adani protesters before he entered Bowen court last week.*

"You should stop breaking the law and harming local workers, and you'll have to answer to the court today on what youse [sic] are doing," he told the activists.

Mr Christensen is on record, speaking in Parliament, as wanting anti-Adani protesters charged with terrorism.

Making a surprise appearance in the court room, Mr Christensen did not bow to the magistrate, nor did he take a seat in the courtroom, contrary to court procedures.

His ignorance extends well beyond court etiquette.

"George Christensen wouldn't know his arse from a power point," motor-ing journalist Grant Edwards wrote in the *Northern Star*.

He said Mr Christensen's claims that the Queensland electric super highway is a \$3 billion white elephant lack research and knowledge.

"Electric cars accounted for less than 0.1 per cent of sales in Australia last year. Combined with hybrids, the figure hovers about 1 per cent of the total

market. But not so long ago we also didn't have mobile phones," Edwards said.

A well-known climate denialist, Christensen launched a campaign last October – 'Power the North' – to push for a new coal-fired power station.

His website [www.PowerTheNorth.com.au](http://www.PowerTheNorth.com.au) went live with a petition.

"What we need is for the Turnbull Government to provide kick-starter funding for the construction of a new High Efficiency Low Emissions (HELE) coal-fired power plant, preferably in North Queensland," he said.

In five months, the petition has scored just over 1100 signatures.

At the time, Bernard Keane wrote in *Crikey*, "How much would taxpayers be up for? Earlier this year, Dylan McConnell of the Melbourne Energy Institute had a crack at estimating the cost of achieving the kinds of emissions reductions claimed for clean coal by Coalition coal spruikers like Matt Canavan, which are around 27%. In McConnell's estimate, you won't get any change from \$60 billion."

Since then, Christensen has gained notoriety with a social media post of himself appearing to threaten 'greenie punks' with a firearm.

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## News this week

It may be possible to **kill off** the **Adani** mine without ripping up contracts and creating **sovereign risk**. Last week it was revealed in a **Senate estimates** committee hearing that Adani has **failed** to address several key environmental conditions that must be fulfilled before final sign-off.

*The Saturday Paper* said, "The revelations of **environmental plans still outstanding** – which in turn must be submitted at least three months before mining can begin – and at least one variation in the time line for lodging them, suggests that the Carmichael mine is **still a way off**."

Queensland MP for Callide, **Colin Boyce**, has slammed a part-Federal-ly funded plan by mining company Glencore to "**acidify**" the **Great Artesian Basin**.

"The people of Callide do not want another **Linc Energy** fiasco, he said.

"Why would we allow the Great Artesian Basin to be used as a **toxic waste dump**?"

It was revealed that **gas exports** will bring \$600m to government coffers in 2018, about the same amount of revenue as gained from **beer tax**. Qatar will earn \$26.6 billion for a similar export trade. Australia's lax petroleum resource rent tax is to blame.

Energy companies **Santos** and **Exxon Mobil** have paid little to no corporate tax on their multi-billion turnovers in recent years. Exxon does not expect to pay **tax** for another **eight years**, thanks to sharp accounting practices.

Another turn of the **revolving door** between government and energy companies saw high-ranking Palaszczuk staffer **Kirby Anderson** take up a **plum job** with the **Queensland Resources Council**. This is perfectly legal but it should not be.

The **Minerals Council of Australia** has bowed to **BHP** activist shareholders by muting its support for coal to keep the big Australian on board. The MCA's latest policy document mentions **coal** only once, unlike the last which had 12 mentions.

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### FFB: TOP READS THIS WEEK

Get the full stories: click the links...

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-consensus-97-per-cent/2018/mar/12/burning-coal-may-have-caused-earths-worst-mass-extinction?CMP=share\\_btn\\_fb](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-consensus-97-per-cent/2018/mar/12/burning-coal-may-have-caused-earths-worst-mass-extinction?CMP=share_btn_fb)

#### Burning coal may have caused Earth's worst mass extinction

End-Permian extinction was caused by burning coal, ignited by magma.  
• Summary P 9

<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/fracking-health-risk-asthma-birth-defects-cancer-w517809>

#### 'The harms of fracking': new report details increased risks of asthma, birth defects and cancer

The most authoritative study of its kind reveals how fracking is contaminating the air and water – and imperiling health.  
• Summary P 11

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2018/03/17/batman-and-labor-adani/15212052005957>

#### Batman and Labor on Adani

Carmichael mine **NOT** had final government signoff! • Summary P 8



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# In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 30,000 words of news for your convenience. Click on the [links](#) to view original articles. (\$) = subscription may be required

## THE ADANI SAGA

<http://www.afr.com/news/politics/critics-wont-stop-carmichael-coal-mine-says-adani-australia-boss-20180311-h0xb7c>

### Critics won't stop Carmichael coal mine: Adani Australia boss Jeyakumar Janakaraj

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 11/03/2018

Adani Australia chief executive Jeyakumar Janakaraj has vowed to go ahead with Indian company's [\\$16.5 billion Carmichael coal mine](#) and slammed its critics, saying the "flood of misinformation" from opponents would not stop the project, which is being driven by record demand for energy from Asia.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/adani-owner-rich-enough-to-fund-carmichael-mine-himself-analyst-says-20180312-p4z3yf.html>

### Adani owner rich enough to fund Carmichael mine himself, analyst says

Nicole Hasham, SMH, 12/03/2018

A leading energy analyst says a reluctance by banks to finance the controversial Adani coal mine is no longer an insurmountable hurdle because the billionaire family behind the proposal has enough wealth to fund the project itself.

Former head of equity research at Citigroup, Tim Buckley, now a director at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, says Mr Adani was recently valued at \$US15 billion on the Indian stock market - a quadrupling in his wealth in four years.

"Adani now has dramatic equity market wealth and he could easily do margin loans against those shareholdings and that would be, in my view, how he could manage to fund the project," Mr Buckley said.

Mr Buckley said Mr Adani was risk-averse and would "want to see a very strong endorsement of the project" by the Turnbull government - potentially in the form of a public loan - in order to use his own money to make the mine a reality.



Bill Shorten, whose position on Adani dominated headlines in the lead-up to the weekend's by-election in Melbourne's Batman, had a 'democracy sausage' as voting began. Photo: Bill Shorten, Facebook

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/mar/12/poll-of-malcolm-turnbulls-electorate-finds-75-back-review-of-adani-approval>

### Poll of Malcolm Turnbull's electorate finds 75% back review of Adani approval

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 12/03/2018

More than 75% of voters in Malcolm Turnbull's Sydney electorate of Wentworth would support reviewing the environmental approvals for the controversial [Queensland](#) Adani coalmine, according to a new opinion poll.

Even geographically closer to the project, in the marginal Liberal-held electorate of Brisbane, 59% of a sample of 747 voters supported a review of Adani's environmental approvals, including 48.6% of LNP voters.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/opinion-bill-shortens-backflip-on-the-adani-mine-has-done-his-party-no-good/news-story/39217ded33d98e748f4af440130dd7a52login=1>

### Opinion: Bill Shorten's backflip on the Adani mine has done his party no good

Renee Viellaris, Courier-Mail, 12/03/2018

In a few months those with deep knowledge of the Adani project believe there will be "yellow trucks pushing dirt around", ready to get the mega-mine under way.

What most don't realise is that Adani and the Palaszczuk Government are

close to finalising a royalties agreement, and negotiations are continuing with the State Government's Coordinator-General relating to land. They are not expected to take long, and are being done without fanfare.

Because of delays, and questions about finance, plus a growing number of voters sceptical about the project's viability, Opposition Leader Bill Shorten has taken a punt that the investment will not go ahead. \$

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/majority-of-queenslanders-want-a-review-on-adani-mine-approval-stats-show/news-story/71b1256f3180ccc62c605e342c8f5001>

### Majority of Queenslanders want a review on Adani mine approval, stats show

Malcolm Farr, Townsville Bulletin, 12/03/2018

The "Adani curse" has hit Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull with a poll finding most of his constituents want a review of the Queensland coal mine.

It has been a huge political problem for Opposition Leader Bill Shorten and now Mr Turnbull could be asked to explain himself.

It now has been revealed that two-thirds of voters in Mr Turnbull's seat of Wentworth and 60 per cent in Brisbane want a review of the envi-

ronmental approval given the project, according to a survey released today by the Australia Institute. \$

<https://newmatilda.com/2018/03/12/bill-shorten-waffles-adani-labor-pocket-big-coal/>

## Bill Shorten waffles about Adani because Labor is in the pocket of big coal

Michael Brull, *New Matilda*, 12/03/2018

In 2010, the government of Kevin Rudd wanted to impose a tax on the enormous profits coal companies were making. The super-rich elite, including coal barons like Andrew Forrest and Gina Rinehart, [responded with an enormous advertising blitz](#) against the government. It cost [\\$22.2 million](#), with a greater war chest earmarked for a long fight. Rudd didn't surrender to Big Coal's campaign. But the ALP did. They threw him out, without the new government ever really explaining why they'd ousted the guy who had won the vote of most Australians. ...

Presumably, Big Coal was pleased at the happy arrival of a more malleable ALP government. Who constituted the more pro-coal faction of the ALP? Who gave Gillard the backing to oust Rudd? It was, and is, generally conceded that [one of the major players was Bill Shorten](#), then widely identified as a "factional warlord" and "faceless man". 10 days before the coup, he approached Gillard, it being understood he wanted her to take Rudd's position.

\* Michael Brull is a member of the Greens.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/townsville-legacy-president-says-antiadani-protest-would-be-very-disappointing/news-story/711099d-94760c126be0eabd4e92019a3>

## Townsville Legacy President says anti-Adani protest would be "very disappointing"

Clare Armstrong, *Townsville Bulletin*, 13/03/2018

A Townsville veterans' organisation in the sights of anti-Adani activists says it would be "disappointing" if a peaceful event was disrupted by demonstrators.

Townsville Legacy president Mick Reilly said, "We welcome AECOM's generous support," he said.

AECOM has been targeted by activists since it commenced surveying and design work for the Adani Carmichael coal mine railway line.

Protesters had planned to disrupt AECOM's attendance at James Cook University's Careers Fair today until the firm pulled out last week. \$



Construction company John Holland in action during the upgrade of Adani's Abbot Point coal port. The two companies ended up in court over the work, with Adani winning costs. Photo: John Holland

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/adani-was-oppressed-in-fight-over-abbot-point-upgr/3358943/>

## Adani was 'oppressed' in fight over Abbot Point upgrade

Geoff Egan, *Gladstone Observer*, 12/03/2018

Brisbane Supreme Court on Monday ordered [construction company] John Holland must pay Adani's legal costs as its behaviour was overly complicated.

In December 2016 the court ruled in Adani's favour after John Holland claimed the mining company had not extended construction completion rates to allow for weather and other difficulties the company faced.

Justice David Jackson found John Holland had acted in a manner that was "legally oppressive".

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/mar/13/bill-shortens-stance-on-adani-coalmine-leaves-voters-cold-guardian-essential-poll>

## Bill Shorten's stance on Adani coalmine leaves voters cold – Guardian Essential poll

Katharine Murphy, *The Guardian*, 13/03/2018

Labor's new position on the Adani coalmine, to oppose the controversial project but not revoke its licence, has underwhelmed voters, according to the latest Guardian [Essential poll](#).

In the latest fortnightly survey of 1,025 respondents, voters were asked whether they supported the Turnbull government's pro-Adani position, Labor's new position, or the Greens position, which is to oppose the project and attempt to stop it.

The options divided the field but the highest level of support was recorded for the Greens' anti-Adani position (30% support), followed by the Liberal government's position of supporting Adani (26%) with only 19% backing the hedged position articulated by Bill Shorten.

<https://www.echo.net.au/2018/03/anti-coal-activists-set-face-court/>

## Anti-coal activists set to face court

Echonet Daily, 13/03/2018

Fourteen activists will appear in Bowen Magistrates Court today to face charges relating to the ongoing Stop Adani campaign.

The charges arise from four actions during the month of January, two of which shut down operations at Adani-owned Abbot Point Port for extended periods. Two further actions took place on the Aurizon-owned railway, which connects existing mines to the port. Trains were prevented from delivering coal for several hours each time.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/mar/14/batman-byelection-green-groups-savage-labors-adani-stance-in-campaigns-final-days>

## Batman byelection: green groups savage Labor's Adani stance in campaign's final days

Katharine Murphy & Paul Karp, *The Guardian*, 14/03/2018

The environment movement has launched a significant last-ditch push

in Batman targeting [Labor's hedged position on the Adani coalmine](#), rolling out robocalls to tens of thousands of residents in the final week of campaigning.

The activist group 350.org began the calls – aimed at 31,000 of the electorate's 161,964 residents – late on Tuesday using a recorded message from Northcote resident and prominent Victorian feminist Mary Crooks, who says it is “disappointing that the [Labor party](#) and Bill Shorten have refused to stop the Adani mine despite two-thirds of Australians being opposed to it”.

<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/adanis-going-financial-dilemma-for-the-carmichael/3360068/>

### Adani's ongoing financial dilemma for the Carmichael Mine

*Leighton Smith, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, 14/03/2018*

Questions continue to surround whether Adani will obtain financial backing for their Carmichael Mine project.

Analysts have cited the mine's remote location for increasing capital expenditure and operating costs and the long term price of thermal coal as some of the obstacles the Carmichael Mine faces while seeking finance.

An Adani Australia representative yesterday confirmed the company had not set a new deadline to obtain financial backing while it weighed up options.

However, they were able to confirm Adani was continuing to seek financing overseas as well as attempting to sell a minority stake in the Carmichael Mine project to help raise the \$3.3 billion needed for it to proceed.

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/indigenous-challenge-to-adani-loses-witnesses/3359116/>

### Indigenous challenge to Adani loses witnesses

*Geoff Egan, Gladstone Observer, 13/03/2018*

An indigenous group's legal attempt stop the Carmichael mine stumbled at the gate after evidence was struck out and witnesses went missing.

Central Queensland people, the Wangan and Jagalingou, have asked the Federal Court to overturn an indigenous Land Use Agreement for the controversial Adani mine.

But in court on Monday W&J lawyers agreed paragraphs from multiple witness statements, including from outspoken member Adrian Burragubba, be removed while Justice John Reeves

struck out others without consent.

After hours of legal argument over what evidence was relevant, W&J barrister Stephen Keim was unable to find the people he was calling to the witness box. Two witnesses had left the courthouse and the third called was not needed for cross-examination.

One of the initially missing witnesses, W&J man Craig Dallen, later told the court an indigenous person could only be a member of one ancestral group.

Under cross-examination, Mr Dallen said he believed people who were not W&J members had attended their meetings and voted on the ILUA.

<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/adani-deal-with-indigenous-group-questioned/3359866/>

### Adani's deal with indigenous group questioned

*Geoff Egan, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, 14/03/2018*

Native title workers have denied a central Queensland indigenous group's agreement with mining giant Adani was illegitimate due to the presence of people with traditionally Torres Strait Islander surnames.

On Tuesday the court heard people with the traditionally Torres Strait family names Thaiday and Ahwang had attended the agreement meeting in April 2016.

But former Queensland South Native Title Service worker Andrew Faye told the court the person's surname was not relevant if they could prove descent from a W&J ancestor. Mr Faye said he also believed there was a Thaiday family in central Queensland.

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/adani-court-hearing-goes-into-overtime/3361055/>

### Adani court hearing goes into overtime

*Geoff Egan, Chinchilla News, 15/03/2018*

Adani's court battle against a group of the Wangan and Jagalingou indigenous group will continue later this month.

The matter will return to Brisbane Federal Court on March 26

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/crime-court/interstate-adani-activists-cop-enormous-fines/news-story/22bc8bdc7280b97f7b33c72b67c6ca35>

### Interstate Adani activists cop enormous fines

*Jessica lamb, Townsville Bulletin, 14/03/2018*

Thirteen anti-Adani protesters have been slapped with a combined total of \$79,500 in fines after the group fronted court in Bowen yesterday.

Adani said the delays cost the company \$7.5 million over two days. Magistrate Simon Young, however, disputed the claims, saying the figures appeared to have been submitted on the value of the coal not put on the ships, rather than the loss of revenue because the coal was transported later.

“I put much more weight on the transport costs of ships not loaded for the day, which are \$4000 and \$5000 respectively,” he said.

The eight activists charged with intentionally or recklessly interfering with ports operation made history as no relevant case law could be found.

Federal Dawson MP George Christensen attended court to observe proceedings and was heckled by the protesters. He posted footage of the confrontation with the group to social media. \$

*Anti-Adani protesters outside court in Bowen after 13 people were fined almost \$80,000 for obstruction of railway and port activities. Photo: Frontline Action on Coal*



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-16/adani-fined-12k-for-pollution-protesters-ordered-to-pay-80k/9553682>

## Anti-Adani protesters say \$80k in fines 'out of balance' with miner's \$12k pollution penalty

Josh Robertson, ABC, 16/03/2018

Protesters who shut down part of Adani's north Queensland coal port have questioned why they were collectively fined almost \$80,000 — more than six times what the mining company faces for dumping coal-polluted water.

Thirteen protesters from Frontline Action on Coal (FLAC) each received fines of up to \$8,000 on Tuesday in the Bowen Magistrates Court, after they chained themselves to coal-loading equipment at the Abbot Point Port in January.

In another case, Adani was issued a fine of about \$12,000 by the Queensland Environment Department after it reported releasing water with nearly eight times the permitted level of coal sediment onto a beach when Abbot Point was inundated with rain from Cyclone Debbie last March.

Adani has since chosen to fight the fine in court "on principle".

Tess Newport, 21, a university student from Melbourne who was fined \$8,000, said the comparative penalties "seem a little out of balance". ...

George Christensen, the federal government MP for Mackay and a vocal Adani supporter, posted on Facebook a video of his exchange with anti-Adani protesters before he entered court on Tuesday.

"You should stop breaking the law and harming local workers, and you'll have to answer to the court today on what youse [sic] are doing," he told the activists.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/activists-call-off-legacy-protest/news-story/618c135197ac0b4d3a3ceb6b48fa1962>

## Activists call off Legacy protest

Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 16/03/2018

Plans by anti-Adani protesters to disrupt a fundraiser for the families of deceased veterans in Townsville have been cancelled out of respect for Legacy and veterans.

Legacy Townsville was reluctant to comment on the move but confirmed protesters had written to them, saying they would not protest. \$

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2018/03/17/batman-and-labor-adani/15212052005957>

## Batman and Labor on Adani

Karen Middleton, The Saturday Paper, 17/03/2018

Despite some suggestions to the contrary, the Carmichael mine has not had its final signoff from the federal minister for environment and energy, Josh Frydenberg, on conditions that must be met before the first coal can be extracted.

Senior officials from the federal Environment Department revealed during Senate estimates committee hearings recently that several key federal environmental conditions remain unaddressed.

Assistant secretary Greg Manning told the committee ... that Adani is yet to lodge a management plan for the endangered black-throated finch, whose habitat protection forms a key condition of a final go-ahead.

He said the department was also yet to approve a management plan for ecosystems in the area dependent on groundwater.

"Both of those are required before the commencement of mining operations," Manning said.

Under questioning from new New South Wales Labor senator and former NSW premier Kristina Keneally, Manning confirmed several other offset measures and monitoring programs had also not been approved. \$

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/regional-queenslanders-want-adani-coal-mine-to-proceed-poll-finds/news-story/cd5a1b2cb1b8e5c182ff063568a7604b>

## Regional Queenslanders want Adani coal mine to proceed, poll finds

Michael Madigan, The Sunday Mail (Qld), 18/03/2018

A ReachTEL poll – conducted by the mining industry this week –gauged support for the coal industry and the Adani project in the Queensland electorates of Capricornia, Dawson, Flynn and Herbert. ...

The [Adani] project ... has the support of more than 60% of those surveyed.

But more than 50% ... opposed the use of taxpayers' funds to assist mining projects.

The "job robbers" spreading lies about wealth-producing mining projects have to be confronted, according to the state's peak mining group, which has declared war on environmental activists.

Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane says he has had enough of the propaganda "and, quite frankly, lies" spread about major projects such as the Adani coal mine. \$

## COAL ROCKS ON

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5276149/five-years-on-what-lessons-have-we-learnt/>

## ICAC issued a warning on coal in 2013 but is anyone listening?

Editorial, Newcastle Herald, 12/03/2018

In 2013 the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption could not have issued a more blunt message to the NSW Government and the community about the corruption risks associated with coal.

"The Commission's view is that the policy and regulatory environment in NSW for the release and allocation of coal exploration licences is conducive to corruption," the ICAC said in a paper prepared after damning investigations into the corrupted Doyles Creek and Mount Penny exploration licences in the Hunter. ...

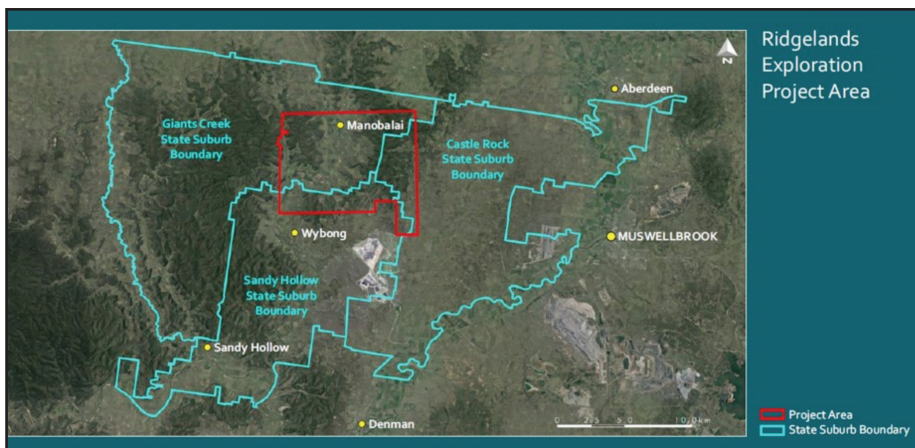
The ICAC found departmental decision-making on coal exploration licences was "characterised by weak processes", was not transparent, and included "implicit pressure" to approve mining activity "when significant additional financial contributions" had been made at the exploration stage. There was "only a weak mechanism to prevent licence holders from continually renewing exploration licences".

The NSW Government determined mining exploration licence areas without considering the social and environmental impacts, or examining whether other land uses such as agriculture would return a greater benefit to the state. ...

It is with this history behind us that the case of Ridglands Resources applying to renew an exploration licence over more than 7600 hectares of Wybong agricultural land is situated, after it failed to meet a condition of consent that should have allocated \$5 million to the community and government departments failed to enforce it.

The ICAC stressed the need for transparency. The question is if the NSW Government is listening.





<http://www.theland.com.au/story/5277530/nsw-government-offered-175-million-special-payment-in-2013-coal-deal/>

### Ridglands Resources wants to renew a Hunter coal exploration licence despite being under investigation

Joanne McCarthy, *The Land*, 12/03/2018

A Hong Kong-based company has applied to renew a controversial Hunter coal exploration licence while under investigation over a [secret \\$5 million community fund](#) and as the NSW Government stands to lose a \$175 million special payment if the coal mine is not approved.

Ridglands Resources applied to renew the Muswellbrook licence on February 23, only four days before the five-year licence signed by former NSW minister Chris Hartcher expired, and only months after Ridglands' [failure to establish a \\$5 million community fund](#), as required under the exploration licence, was revealed.

Five years after the Independent Commission Against Corruption called for sweeping changes in coal exploration licence allocation and renewal processes after damning inquiries into corrupted Hunter coal exploration licences, the NSW Government has failed to act on key recommendations, including for licence renewals. ...

Lock the Gate Hunter spokesperson Steve Phillips said the expiry of the licence was an opportunity to protect the Wybong land covered by the Ridglands title.

"The mining company has failed to carry out the conditions of the exploration lease, and the department has failed to enforce them.

"The NSW Government should show the people of NSW that things have changed in this state since the ICAC mining corruption scandals. Show us that you meant something when you said you'd protect strategic farm land from mining."

<http://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5281887/gomerioi-sacred-sites-will-be-irreversibly-desecrated-by-coal-mine/>

### Gomerioi sacred sites, grinding grooves will be 'irreversibly desecrated' by Shenhua Watermark coal mine

Jamieson Murphy, *Northern Daily Leader*, 13/03/2018

Eight sacred sites will be "irreversibly desecrated or destroyed" if the Shenhua Watermark coal mine goes ahead, the Gomerioi Traditional Custodians say.

The group has made an application to the federal government, seeking its intervention to protect the sites.

Breeza resident and "traditional descendent" of the area, Mitchum Neaves, said Watermark Mountain had a rich Aboriginal history.

"It was a boundary line, a place where the tribes came together for war against each other and later against Europe settlement," Mr Neaves said.

"It's got burial sites and massacre sites. My ancestors fought and died there. Those grinding grooves are like our war memorials."

Mr Neaves said he'd love for people to come and [see the grinding grooves](#), so people knew what was at stake.

"People are amazed, they get tingles all over their body when they look at these," he said.

"When you see them, you can understand why they're so meaningful to us."

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-consensus-97-per-cent/2018/mar/12/burning-coal-may-have-caused-earths-worst-mass-extinction?CMP=share\\_btn\\_fb](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-consensus-97-per-cent/2018/mar/12/burning-coal-may-have-caused-earths-worst-mass-extinction?CMP=share_btn_fb)

### Burning coal may have caused Earth's worst mass extinction

Dana Nuccitelli, *The Guardian*, 12/03/2018

*New geological research from Utah suggests the end-Permian extinction was mainly caused by burning coal, ignited by magma*

Earth has so far gone through five mass extinction events – [scientists are worried we're on course to trigger a sixth](#) – and the deadliest one happened 252 million years ago at the end of the Permian geologic period. In this event, coined "the Great Dying," over 90% of marine species and 70% of terrestrial vertebrate species went extinct. [It took about 10 million years for life on Earth to recover.](#)

Previous research has shown that the Permian mass extinction event didn't coincide with the start of the Siberian volcanic eruptions and lava flows, but rather [300,000 years later](#). That's when the lava began to inject as sheets of magma underground, where data suggests it ignited coal deposits.

The coal ignition triggered the series of events that led to Earth's worst mass extinction. Its sulfur emissions created the acid rain that killed forests. Its carbon emissions acidified the oceans and warmed the planet, killing most marine life. The dead bodies fed bacteria that produced toxic hydrogen sulfide gas, which in turn killed off more species. The warming of the oceans produced a large methane release, which accelerated global warming faster yet.

Scientists are observing many of the same signs of dangerously rapid climate change today.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-15/mount-morgan-abandoned-mine-makes-for-unlikely-allies/9539034>

### Mount Morgan abandoned mine site brings environmentalists and farmers together

Emilia Terzon, *ABC*, 16/03/2018

It is not often you hear environmentalists and farmers asking government to help out a mining company — but that is what is happening in central Queensland as a resources project hangs in the balance.

Since 2014, [Australian company Carbine Resources has been working on a proposal to pull copper, pyrite and gold tailings from one of Queensland's biggest abandoned mines.](#)

While driven by profit, Carbine Resources claims its project would bring jobs to the struggling region, while also improving the old mine's acid mine drainage problem.

Farmer Neal Johansen, chairman of the Wowan-Dululu Landcare Group, said the proposal was "probably the best chance we've got for a clean-up at the Mount Morgan mine site".

## GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/lng-sites-financial-turnaround-not-enough-to-outwe/3359176/>

### LNG projects' profit 'relief' not enough to outweigh challenges

Tegan Annett, Gladstone Observer, 13/03/2018

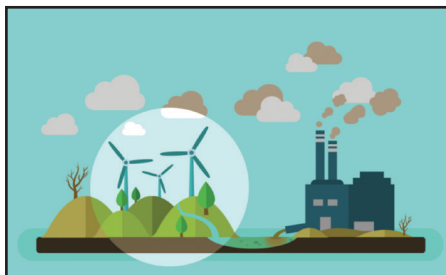
The producers behind Gladstone's \$70-billion LNG industry have had a glimpse of financial security, despite blowing out construction costs and running below full capacity.

The financial turnaround by the companies exporting LNG from the three Curtis Island plants was documented in respected industry analyst EnergyQuest's March report.

Chief executive Graeme Bethune said it would be a "relief" to the producers at Australia Pacific LNG, GLNG and QCLNG.

He said overseas investors of Australian LNG projects "loathed" the government's export controls introduced last year, and warned of the "legal and reputational risks" of banning or restricting international exports.

The report warned more gas reserves would be needed for some of the three projects to fulfil promises to the domestic market.



### Carbon Transport and Storage Co's whimsical website image.

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/callide-mp-slams-plan-acidify-great-artesian-basin/3359760/>

### Callide MP slams plan to 'acidify' Great Artesian Basin

Matthew Newton, Chinchilla News, 13/03/2018

First-term Callide MP Colin Boyce has used his maiden speech in Queensland Parliament to slam a part-Federally funded plan by mining company Glencore to "acidify" the Great Artesian Basin.

Carbon Transport and Storage Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Glencore, is working through modelling and technical studies as part of its plan to inject 60,000 tonnes of liquid CO<sub>2</sub> per annum for three years, into the Great Artesian Basin's high quality



Australia Pacific LNG's Curtis Island plant, Gladstone. Photo: APLNG

Precipice Sandstone Aquifer, west of Wandoan, on the Western Downs.

The project is funded by Australian Coal Association Low Emissions Technologies to the tune of \$15.24m, and received \$8.775m from the Federal Government's Carbon Capture and Storage Research Development and Demonstration Fund in August 2016, announced by Senator Matt Canavan.

In Parliament on Thursday, Mr Boyce slammed the proposal, saying: "The people of Callide do not want another Linc Energy fiasco". ...

"When you mix carbon dioxide with water it becomes carbonic acid, lowering the pH of the water, potentially rendering the water source useless.

"Why would we allow the Great Artesian Basin to be used as a toxic waste dump? On the earth's driest habitable continent, why would we compromise a precious water source?"

Mr Boyce said what troubled him, is that the issue "may not make the floor of parliament for debate".

"The company involved will take its submissions to the EPA and to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and seek their approvals." ...

When the project was [first promoted](#) to the Wandoan community in late October, 2016, the community unanimously opposed it.

Senator Canavan was recently in Texas, talking up the benefits of carbon capture and storage programs.

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/court-of-appeal-finds-the-missing-linc-19294/>

### Court of Appeal Finds the Missing Linc

K&L Gates LLP, [jdsupra.com](http://jdsupra.com), 14/03/2018

On 9 March 2018, in what was a highly anticipated judgment for many liquidators, the Queensland Court of Appeal reversed the controversial first instance Supreme Court decision in

the matter of Linc Energy Pty Ltd (In Liquidation).

Shortly prior to the appointment of liquidators to Linc Energy Limited (in Liquidation) (Linc) in May 2016, the Department of Environment & Heritage Protection (Department) issued an environmental protection order (EPO) to Linc in relation to its coal seam gas project at Chinchilla in Queensland.

The Liquidators disclaimed the relevant Chinchilla property and mining licences pursuant to section 568 of the Corporations Act 2011 (Cth) (Corporations Act) which terminates the rights, interests and liabilities of the company in the disclaimed property. Whilst the Department admitted that the relevant land and licences had been validly disclaimed by the Liquidators, the key issue for the Liquidators was whether, notwithstanding the disclaimer, the company would be obliged to comply with the EPO. ...

The decision is one which will cause a collective sigh of relief by insolvency practitioners many of whom had concerns after the decision of Justice Jackson. Having said that, all insolvency practitioners still need to carefully consider all environmental obligations of a company upon being appointed.

It will be interesting to see, having effectively lost on all arguments, whether the Department decides to make an Application for Special Leave to the High Court.

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=d2b5915d-b2d5-4d7a-9dca-cf05a94a5204>

### Australia: Missing Linc - Queensland Court of Appeal rules environmental protection order ineffective after liquidators' disclaimer

David Walter & Ian Innes, Baker McKenzie, Lexology, 13/03/2018

The Queensland Court of Appeal has unanimously allowed an appeal by

the liquidators of Linc Energy Limited (Linc Energy), holding it was possible to use a disclaimer notice to avoid the consequences of an environmental protection order (EPO) issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Qld) (EPA).

The outcome is to be welcomed by creditors and insolvency professionals as it removes uncertainty about how the priority regime for liquidations interacts with Queensland's EPA. For the State however it underscores the difficulties of seeking to ensure compliance with environmental obligations where a company is subject to a formal insolvency appointment.



*Government revenue from gas exports is the same amount as that earned from beer taxes. Photo: Lion*

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/staggering-90-billion-lost-in-resources-tax-20180305-p4z2uv.html>

### 'Staggering': \$90 billion lost in resources tax

*Eryk Bagshaw, SMH, 12/03/2018*

Australia is on track to eclipse Qatar as the largest exporter of gas by 2020, but is expected to only earn \$600 million in 2018 - the same amount of revenue the government earns in beer tax every year - compared to Qatar's \$26.6 billion.

The 30-year-old petroleum resource rent tax has been criticised for its generous uplift concessions that let companies offset the cost of exploration and claim tax credits for decommissioning plants in the future.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/a-gas-company-boss-is-calling-for-the-north-queensland-gas-market-to-be-connected-to-the-east-coast/news-story/29e63880e-a40db66bbd8979202b02baf>

### A gas company boss is calling for the north Queensland gas market to be connected to the East Coast

*Geoff Egan, Courier-Mail, 14/03/2018*

Just 400km of pipeline could be all that stands in the way of central Queensland solving the Australian gas crisis.

A gas company boss is calling for the

north Queensland gas market to be connected to the East Coast network to unlock a massive gas basin.

The Central Queensland Gas Pipeline received state environmental approval with conditions in 2007, but a decade on is not built.

Speaking at an investor conference in Brisbane yesterday, Blue Energy CEO John Phillips said coal seam gas (CSG) in the Bowen Basin could solve the emerging gas shortage.

Environmental group Lock the Gate has previously called CSG development in the Bowen Basin "reckless in the extreme".

Lock the Gate spokeswoman Carmel Flint said more coal seam gas fields would harm farmland.

"The last thing Queensland needs is more destructive coal seam gas fields that sacrifice agriculture and the environment, all so the gas can be exported off overseas for private profit." \$

<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/fracking-health-risk-asthma-birth-defects-cancer-w517809>

### 'The harms of fracking': new report details increased risks of asthma, birth defects and cancer

*Justin Nobel, Rolling Stone, 13/03/2018*

*The most authoritative study of its kind reveals how fracking is contaminating the air and water – and imperiling the health of millions of Americans*

"Our examination...uncovered no evidence that fracking can be practiced in a manner that does not threaten human health," states a blistering [266-page report](#) released today by Concerned Health Professionals of New York and the Nobel Peace Prize-winning group, Physicians for Social Responsibility. Drawing on news investigations, government assessments and more than 1,200 peer-reviewed research articles, the study finds that fracking – shooting chemical-laden fluid into deep rock layers to release oil and gas – is poisoning the air, contaminating the water and imperiling the health of Americans across the country.

"Fracking is the worst thing I've ever seen," says Dr. Sandra Steingraber, one of the report's eight co-authors, a biologist who has worked as a public health advocate on issues like breast cancer and toxic incinerators. ...

The science on fracking is getting more difficult to dismiss. "With fracking," says Steingraber, "we had six peer

reviewed articles in 2009 pointing to possible public health risks. Now there are more than 1200."

[https://amp.smh.com.au/business/companies/lakes-oil-takes-vic-gov-to-court-over-gas-ban-20180314-p4z4br.html?\\_twitter\\_impression=true](https://amp.smh.com.au/business/companies/lakes-oil-takes-vic-gov-to-court-over-gas-ban-20180314-p4z4br.html?_twitter_impression=true)

### Lakes Oil takes Vic gov to court over gas ban

*Cole Latimer, SMH, 14/03/2018*

Gina Rinehart-backed Lakes Oil faced off with the Victorian government in court on Wednesday as it fights against the state's ban on gas exploration.

The latest hearing will seek to rollback changes made to the moratorium in 2017, which Lakes Oil called illegal and expects to obtain a final decision from Justice Cameron Macaulay after the hearing of the current proceedings.

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/international-transport-federation-%E2%80%98govt-giving-oil-and-gas-away-free%E2%80%99>

### 'Govt is giving oil and gas away for free', tax activists say

*Pip Hinman, Green Left Weekly, 15/03/2018*

Exxon has not paid a cent in corporate income tax on a total income of nearly \$25 billion over a three-year period, and it has not broken any rules.

Santos, which is fighting to get its controversial 850 coal seam gas wells approved in the Narrabri in NSW, paid no corporate tax in 2014-15 and 2015-2016. It only paid \$3 million in corporate tax in 2013-14 when, over those years, it reported revenue totalling \$11.2 billion. ...

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) stated the problem clearly in its submission: by allowing corporations to avoid paying their fair share of tax, schools, hospitals, infrastructure and other essential services suffer.

The ITF concluded that since Australia has no royalty payable on offshore oil and gas production in Commonwealth waters and the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT) is not forecast to collect any revenues on the hydrocarbons used for LNG production for decades, in effect the government is [giving away oil and gas for free](#).

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-15/exxon-mobil-will-not-pay-tax-until-2021/9549034>

### Energy giant Exxon will enjoy an 8-year company tax break in Australia

*Stephen Letts, ABC, 15/03/2018*

The US-based energy giant Exxon has



Exxon Mobil Australia's WA Gorgon project. Photo: Exxon Mobil

confirmed it is unlikely to pay Australian company tax for eight years due to investments in off-shore production and low oil prices.

ExxonMobil Australia chairman Richard Owen told a Senate committee inquiry into corporate tax avoidance that around \$21 billion worth of investments in its Bass Strait and WA joint ventures meant the local subsidiary would not have a taxable income until 2021.

The company last paid company tax in Australia in 2013.

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/how-climate-activists-failed-to-make-clear-the-problem-with-natural-gas-mckibben>

### How climate activists failed to make clear the problem with natural gas

Bill McKibben, *Yale Environment 360*, 13/03/2018

The climate movement's biggest failure has been its inability to successfully make the case that natural gas is not a clean replacement for other fossil fuels. So as natural gas has boomed, U.S. emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, have increased dramatically.

In fact, the conversion to natural gas is making things markedly worse because the money that gets spent on this useless transition locks us into burning fossil fuel when, with each passing month, the actual alternatives of sun and wind get cheaper and more available. If we hadn't discovered fracked natural gas, the effort to deal with climate change would have moved us far more quickly into

renewables; instead, we've wasted a decade and likely far more, since all those new pipelines and power plants are designed (and financed) to last for 40 or 50 years.

## NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/opinion/adam-creighton/south-australia-could-lead-nation-with-nuclear-power-development/news-story/9fc131ca6fe5d4fa-da4dba37bb1ca7a6>

### South Australia could lead nation with nuclear power development

Adam Creighton, *The Australian*, 16/03/2018

South Australia could lobby the federal government to end the crazy law that makes Australia the only G20 country with a ban on nuclear energy, despite having among the largest uranium reserves in the world.

It could make the commonwealth's life a lot easier by volunteering a site for a nuclear reactor. It could pick, say, Port Augusta, which would provide any reactor water access. It would also provide scope in decades to build or host a nuclear submarine fleet, if geopolitics developments required it. Port Augusta is a city suffering from huge economic and social problems, which could be allayed by the construction and operation of a state-of-the-art reactor. \$

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## FOSSIL POLITICS

<http://www.afr.com/business/mining/minerals-council-cedes-climate-ground-to-bhp-rio-20180314-h0xgk4>

### Minerals Council cedes ground to BHP, Rio on climate

Peter Ker, *AFR*, 14/03/2018

The Minerals Council of Australia has ceded ground to BHP and Rio Tinto by ramping up its rhetoric on climate change and revising its stance on energy policy.

In changes that come [three months after BHP threatened to quit the lobby group](#) over its pro-coal advocacy, the MCA appears to have adopted some of BHP's public positions including its belief that energy policy must equally balance emissions reduction with reliability and affordability of energy supply.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/business/terry-mccrann/terry-mccrann-minerals-body-bends-to-keep-bhps-money/news-story/36596543ebceb2f78f6898ddb71a0e39>

### Minerals body bends to keep BHP's money

Terry McCrann, *Herald Sun*, 15/03/2018

The Minerals Council of Australia has embraced BHP's (cynical) stupidity and its annual \$1.9 million cheque.

Three months ago BHP demanded the MCA change its (lukewarm) stance on global warming — to join BHP in worshipping loudly and often at the Church of Gaia — and to also abandon its support for new coal-fired power stations. ...

The Paris Acord is a joke and a fraud not even hiding but strutting in plain sight. It's got nothing to do with "tackling climate change".

It's all and only about keeping the great gravy train of so-called climate action — multi-billion dollar hand-outs to countries, to companies and to main-chancers generally; and conferences and research grants and yet more and more conferences — chugging merrily and carbon dioxide emittingly along. \$

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/business/the-economy/minerals-council-goes-cold-on-coal-in-new-energy-policy-20180314-p4z4bj.html>

### Minerals Council goes cold on coal in new energy policy

Darren Gray, *Brisbane Times*, 14/032018

The Minerals Council of Australia has released a new energy and climate change policy that refers to coal just once, and calls for "reliable and affordable energy at least cost" while

# News this week ... from previous page

Australia follows a pathway to meet its emissions reduction targets.

The word coal appears in the two page Minerals Council policy document just once, in the last sentence.

References to coal have shrunk dramatically from the MCA's previous energy and climate change policy document, produced about three years ago and which referred to coal 12 times.

The policy comes almost three months after mining giant BHP put the MCA on notice that if the council did not stop lobbying for new coal-fired power stations it would review its membership of the group.

But the Minerals Council was blasted by the Australian Conservation Foundation's climate change program manager, Gavan McFadzean.

"The Minerals Council has played a truly destructive role in ensuring our country does not have a credible plan to cut pollution," he said.

"While the MCA has dumped some of its more explicit championing of dirty coal and nuclear power in its latest climate position, it still contains many principles and statements that continue to promote these dangerous fuels."

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/rio-sticks-with-minerals-council-of-australia-despite-green-activists/news-story/d77c2ca78e7f7682f3a535f94e6f418d>

## Rio sticks with Minerals Council of Australia despite green activists

*Matt Chambers, The Australian, 15/03/2018*

Rio Tinto has committed to remain in the Minerals Council of Australia despite an activist shareholder push that last year led BHP to threaten to leave the lobby group if did not tone down its lobbying for clean coal and Australian energy policy that prioritised cost and reliability. \$



**Knitting Nannas protesting outside Lyne MP David Gillespie's Taree office.**

*Photo: MidCoast Knitting Nannas Facebook*

The commitment was made yesterday as the MCA released a new climate policy that has dropped any reference to cleaner coal-fired power and appears to have soothed tensions on climate policy among its three big members, Rio, BHP and Glencore.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-16/former-palaszczuk-senior-advisor-kirby-anderson-new-job-at-qrc/9555126>

## Former Palaszczuk senior adviser gets job with Queensland Resources Council

*Josh Bava & Josh Robertson, ABC, 16/03/2018*

A former senior adviser to Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has begun a new job at the Queensland Resources Council (QRC) less a week after leaving his position in the State Government.

Kirby Anderson worked as Ms Palaszczuk's senior media adviser and spent more than two years as her deputy chief of staff.

The QRC confirmed Mr Anderson was employed full-time as policy director of strategy and external relations.

<http://www.manningrivertimes.com.au/story/5288902/knitting-nannas-protest-in-taree/>

## Knitting Nannas protest in Taree

*Manning River Times, 16/03/2018*

Members of the Knitting Nannas group once again held a protest outside of Member for Lyne Dr David Gillespie's Taree office on Tuesday, March 13.

The "nannas" presented a letter outlining their concerns to Dr Gillespie's office. Dr Gillespie was not available.

The letter stated: "We have written to you in the past over various issues and we would once again like to bring to your attention some of our ongoing concerns, and ask for you to clarify your position regarding them.

The concerns included the Adani Carmichael Mine, the Santos gas project in the Pillaga, Regional Forest Agreements and seismic testing off Newcastle.

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